

Senate File 2187 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2187

BY DOTZLER, DEARDEN, KAPUCIAN,
and WIECK

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the school calendar and school start dates
2 and providing effective and applicability dates.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.17, Code 2009, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **257.17 Aid reduction for early school starts.**

4 State aid payments made pursuant to section 257.16 for a
5 fiscal year shall be reduced by one one-hundred-eightieth for
6 each day of that fiscal year for which the school district
7 begins school before the earliest starting date specified in
8 section 279.10, subsection 1. However, this section does not
9 apply to a school district that has received approval from the
10 ~~director of the department of education under section 279.10,~~
11 ~~subsection 4, to commence classes for regularly established~~
12 ~~elementary and secondary schools in advance of the starting~~
13 ~~date established in~~ for a pilot program for an innovative
14 school year in accordance with section 279.10, subsection ~~1~~ 3.

15 Sec. 2. Section 279.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2009, are
16 amended to read as follows:

17 1. The school year shall begin on the first day of July
18 and each regularly established elementary and secondary school
19 shall begin no sooner than ~~a day during the calendar week~~
20 ~~in which the first day of September falls~~ the fourth Monday
21 in August but no later than the first Monday in December.
22 ~~However, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday,~~
23 ~~school may begin on a day during the calendar week which~~
24 ~~immediately precedes the first day of September unless the~~
25 school district has received approval from the department of
26 education for a pilot program for an innovative school year in
27 accordance with subsection 3. School shall continue for at
28 least one hundred eighty days, except as provided in subsection
29 3, and may be maintained during the entire calendar year.
30 However, if the board of directors of a district extends the
31 school calendar because inclement weather caused the district
32 to temporarily close school during the regular school calendar,
33 the district may excuse a graduating senior who has met
34 district or school requirements for graduation from attendance
35 during the extended school calendar. A school corporation

1 may begin employment of personnel for in-service training and
2 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
3 secondary school. The earliest starting date specified in this
4 subsection shall not apply to a school district which maintains
5 a year around three semester school year.

6 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
7 any ~~proposal~~ request made pursuant to subsection 3 prior to
8 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

9 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsection 4, Code 2009, is amended
10 by striking the subsection.

11 Sec. 4. Section 280.3, subsection 1, Code 2009, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 1. The board of directors of each public school district
14 and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall
15 prescribe the minimum educational program and an attendance
16 policy which shall require each child to attend school for at
17 least one hundred forty-eight days, to be met by attendance for
18 at least thirty-seven days each school quarter, for the schools
19 under their jurisdictions. Each public school and nonpublic
20 school shall comply with the start date and school calendar
21 requirements specified in section 279.10, subsection 1.

22 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect July 1, 2011,
23 and is applicable for school years beginning on or after that
24 date.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill eliminates the authority of the department of
27 education to grant a request made by a board of directors of
28 a school district to commence classes prior to the earliest
29 starting date allowed, which currently is no sooner than a day
30 during the calendar week in which the first day of September
31 falls or, if the first day of September falls on a Sunday, a day
32 during the prior week.

33 The bill establishes the earliest starting date as the
34 fourth Monday in August and requires public and nonpublic
35 schools to comply with the start date and school calendar

1 provisions.

2 The bill takes effect July 1, 2011, for the school year
3 beginning July 1, 2011.